

A Comparison of certain aspects of the medieval poem 'Sir Orfeo' and 'Chaucer's Franklin's tale'

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Abstrak

So we have seen that the Breton Lay of 'Sir Orfeo' follows the conventions of medieval courtly-love poetry, except for one feature, namely that hero and heroine are husband and wife. This is, however, is not an innovation of the poet's; it was taken from the classical version of the story. As a story 'Sir Orfeo' is well told, although I suggest that the characters, by virtue of the reasons postulated on pages 25 and 26, are flat. In the 'Franklin's Tale', Chaucer has also used the earlier, he uses them in a different way. As a story the 'Franklin's Tale' is also good, and in its plot, as has already been shown, each event has a cause; the characters especially that of Dorigene, can be said to be round; the supernatural element, magic, is explained in detail. The explanation might not be a scientific one, but at least it is explained, whereas in 'Sir Orfeo' it is not. The courtly-love conventions too are used to serve a certain purpose, namely to illustrate Chaucer's views about marriage relationships...